



Cleansed and Fed: The Sacramental Life God Feeds Us Jesus

COMMUNION IS A GIFT BEYOND COMPARE

Why do you do what you do? Do you do things for no reason?

Why do you put a branch in your water bucket?

If someone asked, why would you say you receive communion?

First and Foremost

Why is blood sacrifice such a prominent theme in the Bible?

Leviticus 17:11 - "The life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Therefore I say to the Israelites, 'None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood.'"

Sin is such an offense to God that our lives ought to be forfeit for every sin. But God has allowed a substitution. In the Old Testament worship, the substitution was an animal, a specific animal, which could be sacrificed for sin. When you sacrifice it, you kill it by letting its blood. Blood is what gives life. Because that blood is what keeps you from God's wrath, that blood is to be respected, and you must not eat any of it.

Why does this teaching offend?

Hebrews 9:22 - Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Matthew 26:27-28 - Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

The first stated and obvious blessing of Holy Communion is

Romans 5:9 - Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

And where there is forgiveness of sins, there is _____.

So, if each of the Means of Grace grants the forgiveness of sins, does that mean that we get 1/3 of forgiveness in Baptism, 1/3 in Communion, 1/3 through the Word? Or is there something different or better about the forgiveness granted in one or the other?

Luke 22:19-20 - He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

So why did Jesus connect his body and blood to Holy Communion?

What is this connection between forgiveness and blood? Why not something else?

"Do This in Remembrance of Me"

1 Corinthians 11:24-26 - When he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus wants the Supper also to be a remembrance of him. What does Jesus want his disciples to remember about him?

Explain: When you proclaim the Lord's death at Communion you're saying more than "Jesus died."

The benefits of this remembrance extend beyond those receiving Communion. How so?

Who does this proclaiming at Communion? Who hears the proclamation? What is the content of the proclamation?

What do you think: "Pastor, why, at the end of our Communion service, do we say 'Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.' It sounds so morbid. Shouldn't we be talking about his resurrection?"

The Third Union of Communion

1 Corinthians 10:17 - Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Matthew 26:26 - While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples...

What additional message do we proclaim when we take Communion with other Christians?

When you look around at the people going to Communion, how does the Lord's Supper make you more accepting of those who are not like you?

Evaluate: It bothers me to worship and take Communion with that person. I think it is better for me to go to another church.

Why must those who receive Communion together confess the same faith as one other?

Open your hymnal to hymn 669 and say verse 3 together.

"God's Salvation Teaches Us"

Titus 2:11-14 - The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

This passage is not talking specifically about Communion, but it is talking about God's grace. And, as we have already mentioned, God's grace (forgiveness and salvation) are given in Holy Communion. According to these words, what additional thing happens when God's grace appears in our lives?

Take a moment to review the passage and underline both the positive and negative side of sanctification that this passage highlights.

How can eating and drinking do such great things?

In his Small Catechism, Luther says: *How can eating and drinking do such things? It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking.*

Which words are "the main thing" in the sacrament?
Why are these words the "main thing"?

Review of the Blessings

- 1) Forgiveness and Salvation**
- 2) Remembering Jesus' Sacrifice**
- 3) Union with Other Christians**
- 4) Fuel for Our Sanctification**

Miscellaneous:

Agree / Disagree: If you are sick, you should go to Communion for healing.